

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 15 and ending at page 5, line 19 to read, as follows.

[0027] The image reader 200 includes a scanner unit 104 that is disposed below the platen glass 102 so as to be movable substantially parallel ~~[[to]]~~ with the platen glass 102, and that can read the original D mounted on the platen glass 102.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 24 and ending at page 9, line 12 to read, as follows.

[0041] In the original-flowing reading, as shown in FIG. 2B, reading scanning, in which a main scanning direction and a ~~sub-scanning~~ sub-scanning direction are represented by S_y and S_x' , respectively, is performed for the image on the original D, in order to read the image of the original D by the image sensor 109. In the original-flowing reading, since the original D is conveyed from the left toward the right in FIG. 1, the sub-scanning direction S_x' is inverse to the sub-scanning direction S_x in the original-fixing reading. Accordingly, the image read by the image sensor 109 is a mirror image of the image of the original D. Hence, the mirror image must be corrected to an erect image. Accordingly, in the original-flowing reading, mirror-image processing for converting image information read by the image sensor 109 into an erect image is performed. In the mirror-image processing, in order to convert the direction of image data in the main scanning direction S_y into the reverse direction, an image read in one main scanning direction is inverted in the inverse direction.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 8 and ending at page 10, line 16 to read, as follows.

[0045] After passing through the above-described processing, the sheet P having the image formed thereon is discharged from the printer unit 300 by the discharge rollers 118, and is fed to the punching processing unit 550 within the sheet processing unit H (see FIG. 1). In the punching processing unit 550, punching processing of punching two holes, three holes, four holes or the like for file binding can be performed for the sheet P. These holes are punched in a direction of arrangement substantially parallel ~~[[to]]~~ with the sheet conveying direction or in a direction of arrangement substantially perpendicular to the sheet conveying direction.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 14, line 23 and ending at page 15, line 12 to read, as follows.

[0057] When the rear edge of the sheet passes through the pair of conveying rollers 559, the leading edge of the sheet contacts the punching stopper 563, and the entire sheet is accommodated within the sheet accommodating path 569, one roller 562a of a pair of pressing rollers 562 swings to separate from the sheet (a position indicated by broken lines in FIG. 5A). The sheet is thereby aligned by an aligning plate (a pair of grasping surfaces) 564, serving as aligning means, in a state in which the sheet is hardly influenced by a conveyance resistance due to the pair of pressing rollers 562, and the like. Sides substantially parallel ~~[[to]]~~ with the sheet conveying direction (both end portions in the lateral direction of the sheet) are aligned by being grasped by the aligning plate 564 (i.e., positioned at a predetermined punching position in a direction substantially orthogonal to

the sheet conveying direction), and the leading edge of the sheet contacts a stopper (contact member) 563, serving as contact means, by the sheet's own weight, so that the sheet is correctly positioned at a predetermined punching position in the conveying direction.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 25 and ending at page 16, line 11 to read, as follows.

[0061] Upon completion of accommodation of the sheet in the sheet accommodating path 569 in the above-described manner, the next sheet discharged from the printer unit 300 is allowed to enter the punching path 558 of the punching processing unit 550. That is, it is possible to convey the subsequent sheet during processing of aligning/punching the sheet already conveyed into the punching processing unit, and superpose the subsequent sheet in the sheet accommodating path 569 (see FIG. 5A).
[[5C).]] Since the sheets can be superposed in the above-described manner, a time allowance for performing processing of aligning/punching the sheets, and the like is provided, so that sheet aligning/punching processing and the like can be performed even if an image forming operation, in which sheets are discharged with a short time interval in a state in which the performance of the printer unit 300 is sufficiently utilized, is performed.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 19, line 4 and ending at page 19, line 5 to read, as follows.

[0070] A description ~~Description~~ of the folding unit 400 and the finisher unit 500 will be omitted.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 29, line 15 and ending at page 29, line 26 to read, as follows.

[0109] The punching unit punches at least two arranged holes in a sheet. The CPU circuit unit can cause one of the aligning plate and the stopper to perform a positioning operation after causing the other one to perform a positioning operation, based on the relationship between the sheet conveying direction and the direction of arrangement of the at least two holes in the sheet. More specifically, it is possible to provide a configuration in which, when the sheet conveying direction is substantially orthogonal to the direction of arrangement of the holes, a positioning operation by the aligning plate is performed before a positioning operation by the stopper, and when the sheet conveying direction is substantially parallel [[to]] with the direction of arrangement of the holes, a positioning operation by the stopper is performed before a positioning operation by the aligning plate.